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a flat paper guide surface disposed in said paper feeding path downstream of the contact position, the flat paper guide surface having a plurality of projections at least some of which are disposed at least in part between the contact position and the paper exhaust and beneath the sheet of paper moving along said paper feeding path.

39. (New) An ink jet printer according to claim 24, wherein at least one of said projections extends from within the printing area to a point downstream and outside of the printing area.--.

REMARKS

Consideration of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c))

Patent claims 1-23 are pending in the application and have been maintained unchanged. New claims 24-35 were presented in the Preliminary Amendment previously filed on October 11, 2001. By this Preliminary Amendment Applicants seek to present new claims 36-39. Upon entry of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 4, 15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 28, 32 and 36-38 will be independent.

EXPLANATION OF SUPPORT IN THE DISCLOSURE FOR NEW CLAIMS 36-39 (37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c))

Claim 36 is directed to an ink jet printer (Figs. 1-3A; col. 10, lines 56-58) for use with an ink jet head having a nose portion (Figs. 23, 29 and 31, element 90) through which ink is

ejected. The printer includes a paper feeding path which guides a sheet of printing paper in a direction from a paper feeding side to a paper discharging side (Fig. 3A, element 202; col. 18, lines 16-23 and col. 20, lines 30-67), a paper feed roller having a peripheral surface coincident with a portion of the paper feeding path (Figs. 27-31, element 330; col. 14, lines 25-30), and a driving device operatively coupled to the paper feed roller and selectively rotating the paper feed roller (Fig. 17, element M1; col. 16, lines 12-13 and 40-46). A presser abuts the paper feed roller at a contact position, and the contact position is located on the paper feeding path (Figs. 17, 29 and 31, element 350), so that when the paper feed roller is rotated by the driving device the sheet of printing paper is moved along the paper feeding path (Col. 14, lines 25-30; col. 16, lines 40-47). A flat paper guide surface is disposed in the paper feeding path downstream of the contact position (Figs. 27-31, element 112; col. 17, lines 50-52). A printing area is located between the flat paper guide surface and the ink jet head and corresponds to a region over which ink can be applied by ejection by the ink jet head (Figs. 29 and 31, element PA; col. 11, lines 25-27, col. 14, lines 25-29, and col. 17, lines 50-52). Plural projections are disposed on the paper guide surface, at least one of which projections is at least partially disposed inside of the printing area which is located between the flat paper guide surface and the ink jet head and corresponds to a region over which ink can be applied by the ink jet head (Figs. 27-31, elements 113 and col. 17, lines 58-61). At least some projections are arranged at intervals in a direction approximately transverse to the printing paper and are located beneath the sheet of paper moving along the paper feeding path (Col. 18, lines 8-15 and 33-44).

Claim 37 is directed to an ink jet printer (Figs. 1-3A; col. 10, lines 56-58) for use with an ink jet head having a nose portion (Figs. 23, 29 and 31, element 90) through which ink is ejected. This printer has a paper feeding path which guides a sheet of printing paper in a direction from a paper feeding side to a paper discharging side (Fig. 3A, element 202; col. 18,

lines 16-23 and col. 20, lines 30-67), a paper feed roller having a peripheral surface coincident with a portion of the paper feeding path (Figs. 27-31, element 330; col. 14, lines 25-30), and a driving device operatively coupled to the paper feed roller and selectively rotating the paper feed roller (Fig. 17, element M1; col. 16, lines 12-13 and 40-46). A presser abuts that paper feed roller at a contact position, the contact position being located on the paper feeding path (Figs. 17, 29 and 31, element 350). This way, when the paper feed roller is rotated by the driving device the sheet of printing paper is moved along the paper feeding path (Col. 14, lines 25-30; col. 16, lines 40-47). A flat paper guide surface is located in the paper feeding path downstream of the contact position (Figs. 27-31, element 112; col. 17, lines 50-52). Plural projections are disposed on the paper guide surface and at least part of at least one projection is disposed outside of a region which is defined by the contact position where the presser abuts the feed roller and where the nose of the ink jet head opposes the paper guide surface to eject ink (Figs. 29 and 31, element PA; col. 11, lines 25-27, col. 14, lines 25-29, and col. 17, lines 50-52). As least some of the projections are arranged at intervals in a direction approximately transverse to the printing paper and are positioned beneath the sheet of paper moving along the paper feeding path (Figs. 27-31, elements 113 and col. 17, lines 58-61) (Col. 18, lines 8-15 and 33-44).

Claim 38 involves an ink jet printer (Figs. 1-3A; col. 10, lines 56-58) for use with an ink jet head having a nose portion (Figs. 23, 29 and 31, element 90) through which ink is ejected. This printer has a paper feeding path which guides a sheet of printing paper in a direction from a paper source to a paper exhaust (Fig. 3A, element 202; col. 18, lines 16-23 and col. 20, lines 30-67), a paper feed roller having a peripheral surface coincident with a portion of the paper feeding path (Figs. 27-31, element 330; col. 14, lines 25-30), a driving device operatively coupled to the paper feed roller and selectively rotating the paper feed roller (Fig. 17, element M1; col. 16, lines 12-13 and 40-46), and a presser abutting the paper feed roller at a

contact position that is located on the paper feeding path (Figs. 17, 29 and 31, element 350), so that when the paper feed roller is rotated by the driving device the sheet of printing paper is moved toward the paper exhaust (Col. 14, lines 25-30; col. 16, lines 40-47). A flat paper guide surface is disposed in the paper feeding path downstream of the contact position (Figs. 27-31, element 112; col. 17, lines 50-52). The flat paper guide surface has plural projections, at least some of which are disposed at least in part between the contact position and the paper exhaust and beneath the sheet of paper moving along the paper feeding path (Figs. 27-31, elements 113; col. 17, lines 58-61; col. 18, lines 8-15 and 33-44).

Claim 39 involves an ink jet printer according to claim 24, in which at least one of the projections extends from within the printing area to a point downstream and outside of the printing area (Figs. 27-31, element 113).

CONCLUSION

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this reissue application is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please do not hesitate to contact patentee's attorney at the number listed below.

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